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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL 4058

S E C R E T STATE 111102

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 4264 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 01 MAY 78

QUOTE S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 4264

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, AF, PEPR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO GENERAL ZIA

1. GOP IS OF COURSE INTENSELY WORRIED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHAN-
ISTAN AND HAS CAUSE TO BE. APART FROM THE GENERAL INTENSIFI-
CATION OF PAK INSECURITY WHICH COULD RESULT FROM A PRO-SOVIET
COMMUNIST REGIME ON ITS NORTHWESTERN BORDER, GOP ALSO FEARS
REVIVAL OF PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, OR AT A MINIMUM, A REFUSAL
OF NEW AFGHAN REGIME TO HONOR DAOUD'S APPARENT COMMITMENT TO
A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF THAT QUESTION. IN LONGER RUN PAKS
WORRY ABOUT AGE-OLD SPECTRE OF SOV EFFORTS TO GET A PORT
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.

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2. THERE IS VERY LITTLE WE CAN OR SHOULD DO TO REASSURE PAKS
ABOUT FUTURE AFGHAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS. THERE ARE, HOWEVER,
USEFUL THINGS WE CAN DO TO BOLSTER PAK SELF-CONFIDENCE AND
ALLAY SOME OF THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT USG FRIENDSHIP WITH PAKISTAN
WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE MORE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BY SOME IN
GOP IN WAKE OF KABUL COUP. FULLY REALIZE IT WILL BE A
DELICATE TASK TO GIVE REASSURANCE TO PAK'S WITHOUT (A) RAISING

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UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS HERE OR (B) CREATING IN AFGHANISTAN
A FEELING THAT WE ARE PREPARING A PAK THREAT TO THE NEW
GOVERNMENT IN KABUL.

3. TODAY'S DISCUSSION OF RECOGNITION ISSUE WAS A GOOD STEP.
FURTHER SUCH DISCUSSIONS AS WE MAKE OUR RECOGNITION DECISIONS
WILL ALSO HELP. BUT I RECOMMEND IN ADDITION THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER SEND GENERAL ZIA A BRIEF PRIVATE MESSAGE ASSURING HIM OF
OUR CONCERN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND OUR DESIRE TO MAIN-
TAIN A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE GOP ON THEIR IMPLI-
CATIONS. A PROPOSED TEXT FOLLOWS:

4. QUOTE I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LAST
FEW DAYS IN AFGHANISTAN WITH INTENSE INTEREST, AS I KNOW
YOU HAVE. THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN KABUL MAY
OF COURSE HAVE SERIOUS LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
STABILITY AND SECURITY OF SOUTH ASIA, TO WHICH BOTH OUR
GOVERNMENTS HAVE LONG BEEN DEDICATED. THERE ARE MANY QUES-
TPMNS CONCERNING THE DIRECTION AND ORIENTATION OF THE NEW
REGIME IN KABUL WHICH WE CANNOT YET ANSWER. I WANT
YOU TO KNOW, HOWEVER, OF MY GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING INTEREST
IN AND DEDICATION TO THE STABILITY AND WELL-BEING OF SOUTH
ASIA, AND THE CENTRAL ROLE PAKISTAN PLAYS IN THAT AREA.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT OUR
ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION, AND WILL WANT
TO UNDERTAKE WITH YOU A DIALOGUE ON THEIR SIGNIFICANCE FOR
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OUR SHARED INTERESTS. I HAVE ASKED AMB HUMMEL TO
DELIVER THIS LETTER AND TO OBTAIN YOUR VIEWS. UNQUOTE.

5. I WOULD WANT TO DELIVER SUCH A LETTER PERSONALLY, AND
USE IT TO INITIATE A DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL ZIA.

6. I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO DELIVER SUCH A LETTER SOON.
FOR ONE THING THE VALUE OF OUR REASSURANCES OF CONTINUED
USG INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S SECURITY AND INTEGRITY WOULD BE
GREATLY INCREASED IF WE REASSERT THEM QUICKLY, AND CONVERSELY
THEIR ABSENCE WILL CAUSE CONCERN. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THOUGH,
IS THEFACT THAT AT THIS EARLY STAGE THE PAKS SHOULD NOT
EXPECT TO HEAR CONCRETE USG PREDICTIONS OR PLANS FOR DEALING
WITH THE NEW SITUATION; THUS WE ARE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO
KEEP OUR DISCUSSIONS GENERAL, AND THE GOP WILL NOT HAVE HAD
TIME TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC REQUESTS.
HUMMEL

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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